

# *HS-6 Reaches "The Summit"*

A little known "behind the scenes" fact concerning the President's recent visit to the Philippines for a meeting with other key officials was revealed by Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Six's special story to the "Echo".

The Squadron, half-way through its Far Eastern Cruise, had just completed a "Change of Command", and after a short in-port period, was about to return to its station. A message containing the following instructions "...to assist the Presidential Party at the forthcoming summit conference in Manila you will supply the following..." changed everything and sent all hands scurrying to comply.

Endless hours of "Spit and polish" plus some hectic requisitioning of needed supplies finally produced the desired results: Two helicopters complete with plush carpeting and upholstery which very quickly acquired the title "Super VIP's", four additional VIP type helicopters capable of comfortably transporting ten passengers in a manner completely uncommon to squadron type aircraft, and finally, three other helicopters of a lesser configuration to carry out the equally important security, medical and logistic missions.

Dubbed the "Indian Gal Airlines" the aircraft which had been "Customized by Grossglass" (the LTJG in charge of production) had assumed a jewel-like luster thanks to the efforts of the linemen and plane captains - those often unheralded but most important men of the squadron. Meanwhile the pilots were predetermining the routes to be flown and checking out the various landing sites. Also being flown were support flights for members of the American Embassy in Manila who had their tasks to accomplish before the arrival of the party.

Despite all the anxiety, the mission was accomplished in fine style. Names like those of President and Mrs. Marcos, Premier Ky and President Johnson became bywords of the squadron and many of the men would long remember such exotic places as Corregidor, The International Rice Institute or the place of Malacanang. As a result of their unexpected assignment, members of HS-6 can truly report that they finally "reached the Summit."

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